

Over a Ton of Marijuana Nabbed at Checkpoint ... Then 226 Pounds Seized in Second Early Morning Incident

Jamul, Calif - More than 2,413 lbs. of marijuana were recovered late last night by Border Patrol agents working at the I-94 checkpoint near Jamul.

A Border Patrol canine and handler were conducting pre-primary inspection of traffic at the checkpoint when the dog detected the scent of narcotics coming from the rear of a semi tractor-trailer. After referring the semi to the secondary inspection area, agents began questioning the driver and passenger, both Mexican citizens. The rear doors of the trailer were opened, and the service canine alerted to three pallets of cardboard boxes near the front of the trailer. Agents were surprised to discover 211 tightly wrapped packages. Most had been soaked in liquid soap before being sealed, a trick smugglers often use to throw-off a dog's sense of smell. Chemical testing confirmed agents' suspicions. The contents turned out to be 2,413 pounds of marijuana.

"This seizure is a significant blow to illegal narcotic trafficking in San Diego County," said Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Paul Blocker, Jr. "The value of Border Patrol Checkpoints is obvious. Criminals and illegal narcotics seized at our checkpoints almost daily directly result in safer schools and communities."

The estimated street value of the seizure in San Diego County is \$844,550. The national average estimated street value would make the load worth over \$1.9 million. Both the narcotics and occupants of the vehicle were turned over to the custody of the Drug Enforcement Agency for prosecution.

A second marijuana seizure in Boulevard early this morning resulted in over 226 pounds. Agents discovered the drugs after stopping a vehicle that had been under surveillance. The estimated street value of that seizure is close to \$80,000.

Since October 1st, Border Patrol agents in San Diego have seized over \$5.2 million in illegal narcotics. Last night's seizure is the largest by Border Patrol agents in San Diego in several years.

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Video and digital photos available

